

Steven and Jane Edelstein
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March 16, 2009

Dear Senator Gaffey, Representative Fleischman, and members of the Committee:

I am writing to you to ask for your support of **House Bill 6666, Section 5**, regarding the Adjunct Instructor Certificate. My daughter, Kiran, a junior at ECA in New Haven plans to testify at this afternoon's hearing, but I felt it was important that you also have a parent's perspective.

My daughter and her friends have been given a unique opportunity for an expanded educational experience in their studies at ECA. They are all remarkably talented individuals, who have chosen to broaden their high school curricula through narrowly focused supplemental studies in theatre, dance, visual arts, music, and creative writing. The teachers who lead them and guide them in their studies are highly-qualified professional artists, many with advanced degrees. These teachers spend 12 hours per week without fringe benefits imparting their expertise and professional experience on our children. They do this work in addition to their full-time careers, some of which include teaching at colleges and universities. To expect them to pursue certification would present a hardship and would take up the precious spare time that now allows them to teach at ECA. Most, if not all, of them would have to leave ECA if they were forced to become certified, thereby forcing ECA to close for lack of faculty.

I can not begin to tell you the difference ECA has made in my daughter's life, as well as the lives of their friends. I have watched them develop confidence and acquire wisdom unbecoming their age. I believe that my daughter is now far better prepared for college, and for life in an ever-changing global society, than she would have been had she attended public high school alone. In fact, she turned down admission to one of Connecticut's pre-eminent private schools for the chance at being admitted to ECA to pursue her art about which she is passionate.

Please support House Bill 6666, Section 5 to allow these fine teachers to continue teaching our children and providing them with these unique experiences. You will be doing Connecticut's young people a tremendous service.

I thank you for taking the time to read my thoughts.

Sincerely,

Jane Sikand Edelstein
ECA Parent